

# Department of Public Health and Human Services

Public Health & Safety Division ♦ Communicable Disease Control & Prevention Bureau

Immunization Program ♦ PO Box 202951 ♦ 1400 Broadway ♦ Helena, MT 59620-2951

Phone: (406) 444-5580 ♦ Fax: (406) 444-2920

**Steve Bullock, Governor**

**Richard H. Opper, Director**

May 27, 2014

To: All VFC Providers  
From: Montana Immunization Program  
Re: **VFC Update:** ACIP-Recommended Vaccines, Varivax<sup>®</sup> Shipping Change, Menactra<sup>®</sup> Outdates, Section 12 of the *VFC Provider Handbook*

## **Offering All ACIP-Recommended Vaccines**

Reminder – As a VFC Provider, you are required to offer all ACIP-recommended vaccines appropriate to your client population. By signing the VFC Site Contract each year, you agree to abide by this requirement.

Please refer to the current Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons age 0 through 18 Years (<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/child-adolescent.html>). If you do not have all ACIP recommended vaccines currently in your VFC inventory, please include these next time you place an order.

## **Varivax Shipping Schedule Change**

Merck recently notified all providers that order Varivax<sup>®</sup> and Zostavax<sup>®</sup> that starting June 1, 2014, they are changing the shipping schedule for these vaccines. ProQuad<sup>®</sup> shipments are not affected.

Although these changes mainly affect private orders placed through physician distributors and wholesalers, they slightly impact the VFC Program. With these changes, VFC providers may now receive direct ship Varivax<sup>®</sup> on any day of the week they are open to receive vaccine including Monday and Tuesday. This is a change from the current Merck shipment schedule of Wednesday through Friday.

Please keep your vaccine receiving hours up to date by:

1. Reviewing your current hours in imMTrax by going to **Site Contract>>> 2014 PDF** (hours of operation are on page 1).
2. Notifying the Immunization Program if your hours change.

## **Menactra<sup>®</sup> Short Outdates**

The CDC recently notified us that Menactra<sup>®</sup> currently being distributed in the VFC Program may have 4 to 7 month outdates. Providers may want to place smaller, more frequent orders until this situation is resolved.

## **Updated Section 12 from the VFC Provider Handbook**

By this time, all VFC Providers should have received a paper copy of the updated 2014 *VFC Provider Handbook/Vaccine Management Plan* either at a Regional Immunization Workshop or through the mail. Please contact the Immunization Program if you did not receive a copy. You can also find it on our website at: [www.immunization.mt.gov](http://www.immunization.mt.gov) under the “VFC” link.

Just a reminder – We updated Section 12 with current vaccine packing and transport information. Please complete the new Section 12, review it with staff, and post it to your vaccine storage units.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to protect Montana against vaccine-preventable diseases.